

# The Union and American.

OUR COUNTRY FIRST AND FOREMOST.—BE JUST AND FEAR NOT.

VOL. VIII.

GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE, MAY 25, 1876.

NO. 6.

## The Thieves in Louisiana.

### EXPOSURE OF THE RASCALITIES OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE RING.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The select committee on Federal offices in Louisiana held a secret session to-day, at which the Chairman reported that he had applied to the Attorney General, as directed for immunity for the witness Seelye, and that officer had requested that the application be made in writing. The committee then examined G. W. Ferguson of New Orleans, an employee in the Custom House at that place, who testified.

Was employed in the Custom House when I left New Orleans to come here. My purpose in coming here was to expose some of the irregularities of the Custom House. Mr. Ayre of New Orleans met me at the hotel in this city since I arrived here and asked me what I was going to testify about and told me that it would injure the Republican party in New Orleans. Ayre also told me that Mr. Herwig, Deputy Collector at New Orleans, had plenty of money and could bring a hundred witnesses to prove that I would not be believed under oath I replied that I did not think that could be done, and I received impression that Ayre was here to arrest some of the witnesses who might testify before this committee as Ayre is Deputy Marshal and brother-in-law of Marshal Packard. I did not obtain leave of absence when I came here, and told Ayre that I expected to have my head cut off this month. Ayre replied that he would do it if he was in their place at the Custom House.

### FRAUDS OF THE CUSTOM RING.

Q.—Now tell us what you know about any frauds. A.—I was employed in the cigar room in the Custom House in 1875, when twelve cases purporting to contain Guava jelly were received at the Custom House, consigned to a man named Hunard. It was my duty to mark the name of the ship on the cases. Soon after that Deputy Collector Herwig came into the cigar room in great excitement discharged the men, and ordered the room to be locked up. Ingalls an inspector, who was also connected with the Ring had just examined two cases which contained Guava jelly but he did not examine the other cases. Two men that were with Ingalls were told they might go home. Mr. Messing the importer with whom the officers had been conniving, requested me to go on an errand which would take considerable time ostensibly, as I believed, to keep me away from the warehouse but instead of going on the errand I returned to the cigar room and pressing open the cases which had not been examined discovered they were cigars of which I provided myself abundantly and reclosed the aperture. These cigars were of most costly brand the average invoice of or about \$10 a hundred. Next morning the twelve cases were removed to Messing's store and that was last of the transaction so far as anything I knew, except a division of the "swag" afterward. The cases contained 11,000 cigars, and the fraud consists in entering them as juleps. The duty on the cigars was 2.50 per pound, twenty-five per cent, ad valorem duty, and the internal revenue stamps. On the julep duty was ten per cent. The loss to the Government amounted to quite a sum.

To Mr. Conger.—The cases were all marked "Escepcion brand" indicating them to be cigars. Even the cause of juleps was marked to represent cigars. The marks were all like. All this occurred in March 1875 I told Mr. Darrell about the matter about three weeks ago, and told my brother of it when it occurred. I never notified any official of this fraud. I was afraid I would lose my place and did not think it would expose the fraud if I did so as they were all in the Ring together.

## WHO WERE IN THE RING.

Q.—How do you know they were in a Ring?—The importers told me that Thomas Ong, who collected the money from them, kept it all, and did not divide with the others and that hereafter they would divide up the money themselves and then pay it over to the different employees. The importer paid \$20 per thousand on the cigars, and that sum was divided.

Witness gave the names of Dillingham, Naval Officer; Herwig, Deputy Collector; Crawford, entry clerk, and Thomas Ong appraiser, as members of the Ring.

Q.—Was Collector Casey a member of this Ring? A.—Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. Hoskins.—Were you present when any money was divided between these men? A.—I decline to answer.

Q.—What are your reasons? A.—It might criminate me, and it might not. I wish to consult counsel.

After some discussion with the committee the witness was told that he might answer yes or no without criminating himself, and he answered yes. Witness continued:

I saw \$600 paid by Mr. Domingo. I never received a penny myself nor any other valuable consideration. This took place in Domingo's store about February 1875, and the money was paid to Mr. Ong. I knew that this payment related to cigars, because Domingo said, after Ong went out "Damn these fellows, they come after me before I can get the cigars out of the cases." I knew it did not relate to my duty for this was paid in greenbacks and the duty is paid in gold and Mr. Ong had no authority to collect the duty; that was the cashier's duty. I had frequent conversations with Domingo about these payments, and Domingo complained that these Custom House men would come down and get a box or two of cigars, besides his money and he thought it was not fair. The Entry Clerk, Appraiser, Deputy Collector, and Naval Officer, were officials though whose hands these cigars must pass, and it was necessary these persons should collude together, and that was the reason why they formed this Ring spoke of.

### ANOTHER CASE OF FRAUD.

Q.—Now, give us another case of irregularity? A.—In the fall of 1873, Mr. Massoch went to Havana, and before going he told me that he was going to import a lot of cigars, and the clerks in the Custom House had told him to send all his cigars to Warehouse No. 6, instead of the cigar store, and they would be taken care of. A lot of thirteen cases of cigars arrived and were sent to the vinegar factory on Bienville street, and Mr. Kinsella's deputy got after them and found them in the charge of Mr. Massoch's clerk. Kinsella is a special agent of the Treasury Department, and his deputy went to the vinegar factory and told Massoch's clerk if he got them out in an hour all right, if not he would seize them. The clerk asked for three hours which the deputy would not allow, and they were seized and confiscated, and sold. Three of the cases seized had on the Custom House stamps with Mr. Massoch's initials on them showing that they were his property and had passed through the Custom House. The other ten cases, I think from what I heard and saw were taken out of warehouse No. 6, and carried to the vinegar factory. Mr. Betts was storekeeper of warehouse No. 6, and Mr. Hill transacted the business.

By Mr. Conger.—Then this was an attempt to smuggle which was frustrated, was it? A.—Yes, sir. It was generally understood in the Custom House that Mr. Herwig and his brother were the owners of warehouses No. 6 and No. 11, and received the storage profits arising from them.

MORE FRAUDULENT PRACTICES.—The witness then testified about

140,000 cigars that had been shipped to New Orleans in March 1875, which were invoiced as 70,000 and they were delivered to Mr. McCarty on the payment of duty on 70,000 only. Mr. McCarty made the entry on these cigars at the Custom House but they were taken to Massoch's store. Witness said that Mr. Massoch was a large importer, and his fraudulent practices in importing cigars had broken down the small importers, some of whom have said that they could buy cigars of Massoch \$10 per 1,000 cheaper than they could import them.

Ferguson's testimony will be continued tomorrow, when he will produce some data to substantiate his statements. He will again be subpoenaed before the committee at New Orleans, where corroborating proof will be produced by offering the official records of the Custom House in evidence.

Ferguson said he came here with the original intention of laying traps that had come to his own knowledge before the Secretary of the Treasury. On his arriving here he called upon Representative Darrell of Louisiana, but he never saw Bristow. He had a conversation with Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Calhoun, and the result was he was subpoenaed to appear before the committee. The communication he intended for the Secretary of the treasury for reasons best known to himself, was never made.

### Reputation.

Extracts from a speech delivered at the Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, by George C. Martin, Esq.

"To meet all just obligations is no less obligatory on a Government, than on an individual. Individual and sectional dishonesty may injure, but National dishonesty ruins. Of the many heresies which have been promulgated by political demagogues and ingratiated into the public minds, there is none so fraught with disgrace and ruin as that of repudiation. A government that does not respect its plighted faith is not worthy to bask in the sun light of Heaven and should surrender its charter."

"If you, the American people are going to skulk behind the screen of repudiation, you should first obliterate the memories of the past; demolish the monuments which tell the brave deeds of our 'hero dead'; gather in one heap all the records of our Nation; on this funeral pile burn our Constitution and Laws, by its light join hands with devils, damned, and sink to everlasting disgrace."

"It is the high privilege and solemn duty of every American citizen to guard the integrity of our country."

"Beware and suspect him who sings the eyren songs of repudiation, while he charms your ear, he will steal your honor. If you, the American people have debts, you contracted them. Will you with all you boasted National pride acknowledge by this deed to your sister nations that you are not responsible for your acts, and therefore not capable of self-government?"

"You have no right to entail the infamy of repudiation, on the yet unborn millions of your posterity. It would be a sin in the sight of God and man. Let misfortunes and poverty oppress let destruction and annihilation sink America to irredeemable oblivion; let her past glory be forgotten; but let not this blot of National dishonor rest on it one fair name."

The country storekeeper said: "Here, my friend, those balls of butter I bought of you last week all proved to be just three ounces short of a pound." And the farmer innocently answered: "Well, I don't see how that could be, for I used one of your own pound bars of soap for a weight."

One of the great battles we have to fight in this world is the battle with appearance.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON.

May 20, 1876.

Political matters appear to have assumed a more lively time since Congress has got regularly to work again after its "Centennial trip" to Philadelphia. Blaine seems to be the favorite of the Republicans but it is difficult to say, who as yet is the bright particular star of the Democracy. This fact seems to be that the Reds are reduced to a very small number out of which to choose a man whose record will bear investigation while the Democrats on the other hand have so many who would fill the Presidential chair with credit to himself and honor to the country that it is hard to make invidious distinction in selecting the man who shall bear their banner in the coming contest. While personal preferences and local attachments are now entirely in order there can be but little doubt the entire will by a perfect unit after the nomination at St. Louis. If there ever was a country that needed the best exertions of its citizens to wipe out the foul stain upon its escutcheon and restore the purity of its name so foully disgraced by the party in power for the last eight years it is this.

The student of history in coming generations will pause in astonishment when he reaches the page that records the story of to-day. He will stop to marvel at the unblushing effrontery, the proved dishonesty, and reckless knavery of the political party that now controls the destiny of a nation. The unbridled licence allowed and so freely indulged in by the Republican officials has never been existed by the servants of the most corrupt government that ever equalled. And the violent outrages cold blooded murders now being perpetrated in the extreme South solely for political purposes is without a parallel. That the scenes now being enacted in Louisiana and Mississippi have been planned for selfish ends and party purposes by carpet baggers such as money and idome genus is too apparent to deny. Republican papers are jubilant over the disclosure affecting the Doorkeeper of the House The New York World says there is this much difference between the Democrats and the Republicans to be noted: The former having discovered their servants' unfitness proposes promptly to remove him, the latter retained in their service a corruption list as notorious as Bell King and when their doorkeeper who had taken \$15,000 for admitting jobboys to the floor of the House was removed from the office which he had prostituted, raised the howl that he was "a poor one armed Union Soldier" though the limb had been topped by a Michigan saw mill. The Committee on expenditures in that Dept. to Justice have designated a sub-committee to proceed to New York and continue the investigation of alleged election frauds in that city developed by the testimony of Davenport. A special committee also has been appointed to investigate Mr. Bridgeland U. S. Havre whose name was mixed up with the transactions exposed during the investigation of Boughton the committee clerk Representative Hewitt who was deputed to prepare the on Gen. Schencks has completed it before the committee on Foreign relations at its next meeting: The report acquits Gen. Schencks of intentional fraud but censures him severely for the little impropriety of his whole connection with the Emma Mine and his entire lack perception of the proprieties of his office. Two men were killed at the Capitol yesterday by the explosion of gas in one of the Committee rooms. It appears there was a leakage in the pipes and on going into the room one of them lighted a match causing an explosion.

Nemo.

Why is your shadow like false friends? Because it only follows you in sunshine.

## Parallel of the Sexes.

There is an admirable partition of the qualities between the sexes, which the Author of our being has distributed to each with a wisdom that challenges our unbounded admiration:

Man is strong—Woman is beautiful.

Man is daring and confident—Woman is diffident and unassuming.

Man is great in action—Woman is suffering.

Man ships abroad—Woman at home.

Man talks to convince—Woman to persuade and please.

Man has rugged heart—Woman a soft and tender one.

Man prevents misery—Woman relieves it.

Man has science—Woman has taste.

Man has judgement—Woman sensibility.

Man is a being of justice—Woman an angel of mercy.

### Tit for Tat.

Among the annoyed and dipping pedestrians who sought the aid of a Grand River street car yesterday to help shorten the way home was a man with gray locks and an old maid with beau-catchers and false teeth. They seemed to hate other at first sight, for he was hardly seated beside her when he growled:

"If you women didn't wear bustles there'd be twice as much room in street cars."

"If you men didn't sit cross legged there'd be three times as much room!" she snapped in reply.

"If I was a woman I wouldn't be gadding around with the rain pouring down this way," he remarked.

"Yes you would. If you were a woman you'd want to go out and show those feet!"

He drew his No. 11's under the seat, flushed up a little and growled:

"They are not false, like some folks' teeth!"

"No, and they don't turn up quite as much as some people's noses!" she answered.

He was silent for a time, but presently recovered himself and went on:

"Thirty years ago women got along without paint, powder, bustles, straps, buckles and such non-sensical fixings."

"Thirty years ago," she promptly replied, "it was a rare thing to see a man come out of a saloon wiping his mouth on his thumb!"

He didn't say anything more, but he wondered if she wasn't looking out of the window when he signalled the car.—[Free Press.

### The Sentence of Death Pronounced upon the Kederer.

The following is a copy of the most memorable judicial sentence which has ever been pronounced in the annals of the world:

Sentence pronounced by Pontius Pilate, Intendant of the Lower Province of Lower Gallilee, the Jesus of Nazareth suffer death by the cross. In the seventeenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, and on the 24th day of the month of March, in the most holy city of Jerusalem, during the pontificate of Annes and Caiaphas Pontius Pilate, Intendant of this Province of Lower Gallilee sitting to judgment in the presidential seat of the Prætor's sentence Jesus of Nazareth to death on a cross, between robbers, as the numerous and notorious testimonies of the people prove:

1. Jesus is a misleader.

2. He has excited the people to sedition.

3. He is an enemy to the laws.

4. He calls himself the son of God.

5. He calls himself falsely the King of Israel.

6. He went into the temple followed by a multitude carrying palms in their hands.

Orders from the first centurion, Quirillus Cornelious, to bring him to the place of execution.

Forbids all persons, rich or poor, to prevent the execution of

The witnesses who have signed the execution of Jesus are:

1. Daniel Robani, Pharisee.
2. John Zorababel.
3. Raphael.
4. Capet.

Jesus to be taken out of Jerusalem through the gates Tournes.

This is engraved on a plate of brass in the Hebrew language, and on its side are the following words:

A similar plate has been sent to each tribe."

It was discovered in the year 1280, the kingdom of Naples, in a search made for Roman antiquities, and remained there until it was found by the Commission of Arts in the French Army in Italy. Up to the time of the campaign in Italy, it was preserved in the sacristy of the Carthusians, near Naples, where it was kept in a box of ebony. Since then the relic has been in the chapel of Caserta. The Carthus obtained by their petitions to keep the plate, which was an acknowledgment of the sacrifices which they made for the French army. The French translation was made literally by the members of the commission of Arts. Demon had a fac simile of the plate engraved, which was bought by Lord Howard, on the sale of his cabinet, for 2,800*fr.* There seems to be no historical doubts as to the authenticity of this. The reasons of the sentence correspond exactly with these in the Gospel.

### Drink, But Remember.

If you think it is your duty to drink intoxicating liquors, by all means do so. On no account violate your conscientious convictions, but while you raise th cup to your lips remember that this draught represents the bread of some starving brother, for the food of at least six million persons is grasped by the master and distiller and its nourishment destroyed.

Remember that so long as you are in health these liquors are unnecessary. 2,000 medical men asserted it, and hundreds of thousands of teetotalers proved it.

Remember that most persons who act as you do ruin their health and shorten their lives by so doing.

Remember that not drunkenness alone, but drinking, fills our jails and penitentiaries, our poor houses and lunatic asylums; employs our coroners and our hangmen and works mischief incalculable on all ranks and both sexes, of which no human institution takes cognization.

Remember that drinking retards education, industry, and every other branch of political and social improvement.

Remember that multitudes yearly die a drunkard's death, and go to meet a drunkard's doom.

Remember that every year multitudes from your "moderate" ranks recruit the wasted army of drunkards.

Remember that every drunkard once tried to follow the example you set, and on trial fell from his slippery ground into the whirlpool of intemperance.

Remember that the weak and tempted ones look to you, and that under God it depends on you whether they may be drunkards or sober men.

Remember that "to him that knoweth good and doeth it not, to him it is a sin," and that there is "woe to that man through whom offenses come to the little ones."

Remember that you cannot be neutral; and there will be a day when you will be unable to plead ignorance.

Remember that all this weight of responsibility rests with you, raise the cup, if you think it right, but we envy not your conscience.

At the marriage of an Alabama widow, one of the servants was asked of his master would take a bridal tour. "Dunno, sah; when the ole missus, alive, took a paddle to her; dunno if he take a bridal to the new one or not."

